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Vandals destroy insulators BPA offers reward

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VANCOUVER, Wash. – The Bonneville Power Administration is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of vandals who damaged insulators in Skamania County.

Some time during the week of Dec. 17, vandals shot out several insulators east of Cedar Grove Lane in Skamania County and still more insulators north of Highway 14 between Prindle and Skamania, Washington. The damage led to power outages on

Dec. 27 in Clark and Skamania counties that lasted one to five hours depending upon location. Crews replaced the damaged parts at an estimated cost of \$5,000.

"Vandalism accounts for millions of dollars in damage to the Northwest power system each year and these costs get passed on to customers and ratepayers," explained Jeffrey Millennor, security specialist for BPA. "Beyond these monetary costs and inconveniences is the possible disruption of essential services – fire, police and medical – that depend on reliable electric service."

In the state of Washington, vandalism that affects public utilities is a class B felony punishable by confinement in a state correctional institution for up to 10 years or by a fine up to \$20,000, or both.

Since 1994, BPA's Crime Witness program has generated hundreds of tips resulting in dozens of arrests, thousands of dollars of recovered property and, most important, deterrence of future crime. Cumulative savings since the program began total more than \$2 million. Informants can call toll free 1-800-437-2744. The identity of informants is kept strictly confidential.

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